

Melvin Lake Wind Project Feedback Form

Open House: July 13th, Estabrooks Community Centre

Thank you for your interest in the proposed Melvin Lake Wind Project

Your comments are appreciated. Please take a few moments to answer the following questions.

Name: _____	_____
Address: _____	_____
Phone N _____	_____
Email Ad _____	_____

1. How did you learn about the Open House?

- Newspaper Advertisement Letter
- Word of Mouth Project Website
- Other: _____

2. What was your main reason for attending?

To learn more about the project and green energy's future in Nova Scotia

3. Did you find the Open House useful?

- Yes No

If no, please comment: _____

4. What do you believe the key issues that need to be addressed in the Public Consultation process?

Mostly conservation issues concerning the site.

5. Looking ahead, what are your preferred methods of receiving information about the proposed Project?

- Open Houses Direct mail News Media
 Website Email Phone Call
 Face to face discussions

6. Do you support the proposed Project?

- Yes, supportive Undecided
 Somewhat supportive Opposed

7. Do you have any additional specific comments or questions regarding the Project?

8. Would you be interested in joining a Community Liaison Committee (CLC) for this Project? The Purpose of a CLC is to act as an advisory body to a project proponent (ABO Wind) by providing input on existing or potential concerns of the community with respect to the project plan and activities; and to represent community interest by providing an avenue for the mutual exchange of information between the proponent and the community.

- Yes
 Maybe
 No

If YES / MAYBE, please provide your e-mail address or phone number, or indicate this at the top of the page.

- Check box if you would like to be contacted directly to discuss your comments or concerns.**

Please leave your comments in the comment box or mail to:

Heidi Kirby, ABO Wind Canada Ltd.
Ste. 200, 2111 Maitland Street, Halifax, NS B3K 2Z8

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Name: _____	_____
Address: _____	_____
Phone N _____	_____
Email Ad _____	_____

1. How did you learn about the Open House?

- Newspaper Advertisement Letter
 Word of Mouth Project Website
 Other: _____

2. What was your main reason for attending?

Interest in renewables

3. Did you find the Open House useful?

- Yes No
If no, please comment: _____

4. What do you believe the key issues that need to be addressed in the Public Consultation process?

- Recreation / impacts to recreation.

5. Looking ahead, what are your preferred methods of receiving information about the proposed Project?

- Open Houses Direct mail News Media
 Website Email Phone Call
 Face to face discussions

6. Do you support the proposed Project?

- Yes, supportive Undecided
 Somewhat supportive Opposed

7. Do you have any additional specific comments or questions regarding the Project?

[Redacted comment box]

8. Would you be interested in joining a Community Liaison Committee (CLC) for this Project? The Purpose of a CLC is to act as an advisory body to a project proponent (ABO Wind) by providing input on existing or potential concerns of the community with respect to the project plan and activities; and to represent community interest by providing an avenue for the mutual exchange of information between the proponent and the community.

- Yes
 Maybe
 No

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Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

1. How did you learn about the Open House?

- Newspaper Advertisement Letter
 Word of Mouth Project Website
 Other: Brochure in Mail

2. What was your main reason for attending?

I follow and research Energy Transmission activities

3. Did you find the Open House useful?

- Yes No

If no, please comment: _____

4. What do you believe the key issues that need to be addressed in the Public Consultation process?

- Environmental safety for Wildlife and the Public
- Jobs
- Energy Independence & Security
- Economic Benefits

5. Looking ahead, what are your preferred methods of receiving information about the proposed Project?

- Open Houses Direct mail News Media
 Website Email Phone Call
 Face to face discussions

6. Do you support the proposed Project?

- Yes, supportive Undecided
 Somewhat supportive Opposed

7. Do you have any additional specific comments or questions regarding the Project?

Fully support as long as Environmentally safe.

The Towers should be able to support heavier loads than the FMW units when it comes time to replace them

8. Would you be interested in joining a Community Liaison Committee (CLC) for this Project? The Purpose of a CLC is to act as an advisory body to a project proponent (ABO Wind) by providing input on existing or potential concerns of the community with respect to the project plan and activities; and to represent community interest by providing an avenue for the mutual exchange of information between the proponent and the community.

- Yes
 Maybe
 No

If YES / MAYBE, please provide your e-mail address or phone number, or indicate this at the top of the page.

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-> personal

close to

WTC + Clay + Green later towards right later

-> road network out by through forests

-> digitalisation as much as possible

want to see < -> less invasive as possible

existing roads as much as possible

-> EXP / fire planning -> fire prevention

-> talk to Feb. 17 -> creative mitigation plans

ABO WIND

Melvin Lake Wind Project Comment Form

July 13th – Open House

If you would like to receive a response to your comment or question, please fill out the contact information below. If you would like to have your comment on record but not have your name attributed to it, please do not fill in the contact information.

Name (optional):

Phone Number (optional)

Email Address (optional)

Comments or questions regarding the Project?

This was a very informative evening with lots of passionate talk keen to enlighten the public about this project. I do hope your bid is successful and I am personally more relaxed and confident that the environmental impacts are less than I first imagined.

ABO WIND

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Name (optional): _____

Phone Number (optional) _____

Email Address (optional) _____

Comments or questions regarding the Project?

As long as the project is environmentally safe I fully support the Melvin Lake Wind Project.

I fully support the development and operation

of Green Energy projects within Nova Scotia's borders,

I do not like the concept of the loop and all sources

of electrical supply for Nova Scotia's grid due to the

numerous environmental and unknown risks. NS need Energy Independence



Melvin Lake Wind Project Comment Form

July 13th – Open House

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Name (optional): _____

Phone Number (optional): _____

Email Address (optional): _____

Comments or questions regarding the Project?

3 south eastern turbines in front + behind
why not use the 101 line

ABO WIND

Melvin Lake Wind Project Comment Form July 13th - Open House

If you would like to receive a response to your comment or question, please fill out the contact information below. If you would like to have your comment on record but not have your name attributed to it, please



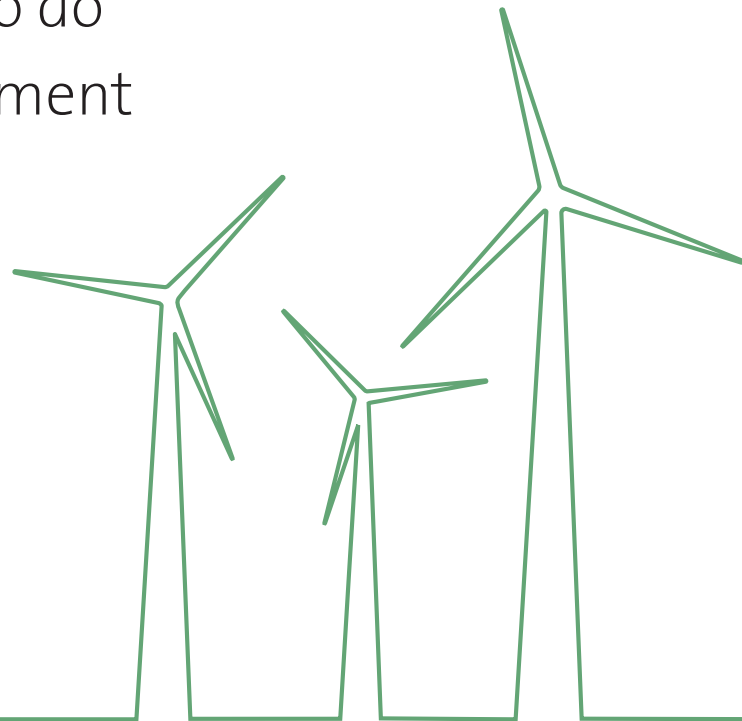
Name (optional): _____
Phone Number (optional): _____
Email Address (optional): _____

Comments or questions regarding the Project?

On the storage question - please look into the feasibility of compressed/liquefied air as an option.
Thank you for your comprehensive approach on the development of the project. Best of luck on the environmental assessment.

Community Notice of Proposal

- The proposed Project is located south of Highway 101 and west of Pockwock Lake, in the general vicinity of Hammonds Plains, Upper Hammonds Plains, Pockwock, Upper Tantallon, and Mount Uniacke.
- Following mailouts and information sessions held in 2021 and 2023, ABO plans to do additional community engagement in early 2024.
- ABO Wind welcomes your feedback and questions.



For information and contact information,
visit www.melvinlakewind.ca

ABO
WIND

Open house celebrates 20 years of second chances

Neil Everton

A group that's been changing lives around St Margaret's Bay for the last 20 years is throwing a party.

The Tantallon-based Western Halifax Community Learning Network is planning an open house this month to talk about how it has been giving people from 18 to 80 a second chance at success. And information will be

shared about what it has planned for the future.

"It's a chance to talk about how literacy programs are changing," says executive director Lesta Armstrong. "And to showcase the work and the transformations of our learners."

Chad Danells is one of those success stories. He went back to the classroom last year at the

age of 40 to get the GED he missed because he didn't finish high school. He successfully completed the GED this summer. "It gave me such a sense of accomplishment. It was really fulfilling," says the father of two from Timberlea.

Almost 20 percent of adults struggle with basic reading, and 40 percent have a hard time functioning effectively in a knowledge-based economy. Chad Danells has some simple advice for anyone thinking of upgrading their skills: just do it. "You won't regret it," he says.

The learning network is inviting employers and community leaders to the open house. Visitors will have a chance to see the learning network's offices and training room, meet the staff and instructors, and see the creativity of students.

"We'll be talking about how the focus our programs is moving to communication, creativity, critical thinking and computer skills. But our priority is to hear from employers and community leaders about what they need from us," says Lesta Armstrong.

The open house is at 5209 St. Margaret's Bay Road, Suite 205, Upper Tantallon. It will be held over two days, November 23, 2-4pm and 6-8pm, and on November 24, 2-4pm. For more information, call 902-225-6320.



Caption: Chad Danells went back to the classroom at 40 to get his GED. Photo credit Neil Everton




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Community Notice of Proposal

- ABO Wind Canada plans to bid the Melvin Lake Wind Project in response to the NS Green Choice Program RFP in April 2024. The proposed Project is located south of Highway 101 and west of Pockwock Lake, in the general vicinity of Hammonds Plains, Upper Hammonds Plains, Pockwock, Upper Tantallon, and Mount Uniacke.
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- ABO Wind welcomes your feedback and questions.

For information and contact information, visit www.melvinlakewind.ca





Grow a Mo to raise awareness of men's mental health, suicide, prostate cancer and testicular cancer.

More information at ca.movember.com

Providing more care, faster, is our top priority.

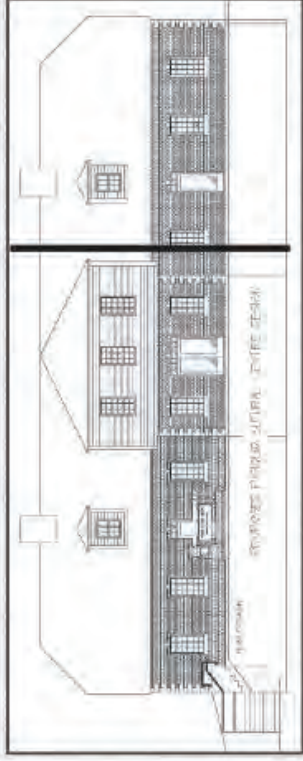
Nova Scotians expect better health care. We're working together to make it happen right now.

Learn more at NovaScotia.ca/ActionForHealth



Proposed Heritage & Cultural Centre

Concept Drawing - facing extension of Fort Edward Street



This drawing was presented to council showing what the West Hants Historical Society would like to see constructed on land adjacent to Fort Edward National Historic Site. It is proposing an interpretive centre, something that could serve as an educational tool for generations to come. CONTRIBUTED

area, and the economic spin-offs would be felt throughout West Hants. It would also serve as an educational hub for schools and institutions, encouraging cultural appreciation and research.

Pineo said preserving the land adjacent to Fort Edward is paramount to their interpretive centre plan. Establishing such a facility is a pivotal step towards building a cultural legacy for West Hants.

STUDENTS TAKE STANCE

Two summer students, who worked at the West Hants Historical Society's museum on King Street, outlined why they support the vision.

"Preserving that land adjacent to Fort Edward would not only preserve the history of West Hants, but it would also preserve the historical education for future generations. Future youth of the area will have the chance to visit and be immersed in the history around them," said Gretchen Archibald, who noted a lot of people are simply not aware of the historical significance of the fort.

"A new cultural centre would be a wonderful opportunity for more educational field trips for schoolchildren of all ages. Maybe they'll even be inspired to pursue a career in history, just like how I have been inspired by my work this summer," she said, outlining how the centre would be a

the land, that rezoning process may not have been started. Mayor Abraham Zebian said this has been a long and informative process.

"Coming in to the region, not having a real deep background on Fort Edward myself as a member of this council and not knowing past discussions of previous councils in relation to Fort Edward, I've learned leaps and bounds of information on the history and where things were," Zebian said, noting he could see deferring the decision until the council decides what to do with the land in question.

Coun. John Smith said he liked the historical society's proposal, noting how important the piece of land is.

"It's one piece of land that can't be replicated. It's next to a national historic site. There aren't many of those available in the province," said Smith. "I think once that land is used for whatever purpose it's used for, that will be it for the next lot of decades," he said, noting "I think we really have to get it right."

Coun. Scott McLean pointed out it took the arena years to get built, so he's in favour of allowing time for the society to tackle the interpretive centre.

After significant discussion, council decided not to rezone the property. It will stay open space, with the neighbouring gravel parking lot remaining

IAN FAIRCLOUGH SALTWIRE ifairclomoh@saltwire.com @ianfairclough

Some parents throughout the area served by the Annapolis Valley Regional Centre for Education are upset by the increasing number of days that buses are not available to take their children to school.

"I heard through sources at the school that the driver has left because he got another job and gave them plenty of notice so they knew he was leaving, but they haven't filled the position."

She said that when she spoke to someone at the AVRCE office last week, she was told "the plan was that they were going to try to stagger the routes so school children to Central Kings Rural High School was cancelled three days in a row last week."

Jodi Bishop, of Lakeville, said the bus that takes her children to Central Kings Rural High School was cancelled three days in a row last week.

Lack of bus drivers leads to cancellations

"I'm trying not to be irate and go through all the right steps, but no one is listening to us," she said.

Bishop said that after not coming last Wednesday to Friday, Oct. 18-20, they had been expecting the bus Monday, Oct. 23 but it didn't show up on schedule because the new driver got lost somewhere on the route.

"I heard through sources at the school that the driver has left because he got another job and gave them plenty of notice so they knew he was leaving, but they haven't filled the position."

She said that when she spoke to someone at the AVRCE office last week, she was told "the plan was that they were going to try to stagger the routes so school children to Central Kings Rural High School was cancelled three days in a row last week."

if they didn't have other transportation," Bishop said. "But they didn't do that."

That solution isn't a good one in any case, Bishop said, "especially with the policy that if students miss too much time of a course they can be removed from the course and fail."

When Bishop went to the school Monday because she couldn't reach anyone on the phone, "they said they're getting overloaded with calls from people. I said I understand that, but they have to start answering people. This is why people are getting pissed and going to social media and posting answers."

She said if she or her husband have to stay home to take her children to school, they lose time and money from work.

"I feel bad for some students because some parents don't have a car, so they can't get to school, or they have jobs where they can't be late."

Spokeswoman Kristen Loyst said in an email that the AVRCE's bus service and its contracted bus company, which covers eastern and central Kings County, are experiencing a staffing shortage.

"In particular, we have a shortage of spare bus drivers who cover routes when regular drivers are a way due to illness or scheduled leave for appointments. We also have vacancies in permanent bus driver positions," Loyst wrote.

"We are advertising available bus driver positions on radio, social media, streaming platforms, and websites, which has increased the number of applications we are receiving. We are getting new drivers trained and on the road as quickly as possible."

Loyst said that, on average, AVRCE has cancelled about eight buses per day over the past two weeks because of staffing shortages, some of which cover multiple schools.

"We are optimistic that numbers will continue to trend in the right direction, and we will continue to see more applications to join our team," she said.

Community Notice of Proposal ABO Wind Canada plans to bid the Melvin Lake Wind Project in response to the NS Green Choice Program RFP in April 2024. The proposed Project is located south of Highway 101 and west of Pockwock Lake, in the general vicinity of Hammonds Plains, Upper Hammonds Plains, Pockwock, Upper Tantallon, and Mount Uniacke.

NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING THE NEW MINAS WATER COMMISSION has applied for approval of amendments to its Schedule of Rates and Charges for Water and Water Services and amendments to its Schedule of Rules and Regulations. Hearing starts: Tuesday, January 9, 2024 10:00 a.m. Louis Millett Community Complex 9489 Commercial Street Nova Scotia

Cane Corso Puppies For Sale

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Serious inquires only please!

1500 \$2500 firm

They will have their first set of needles ready to go in the beginning of September! Thank you!

PLEASE CONTACT US AT LAROBBS@HOTMAIL.COM



Community Notice of Proposal

- The proposed Project is located south of Highway 101 and west of Portwick Lake, in the general vicinity of Hammond Plains, Upper Hammond Plains, Rockwood, Upper Tantalus, and Mount Lincoln.
- Following mailouts and information sessions held in 2021 and 2023, ABO plans to do additional community engagement in early 2024.
- ABO Wind welcomes your feedback and questions.



For information and contact information, visit www.melvincreekwind.ca

ABO WIND

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND

JANUARY MULTI 10 Y IN C




LARDHOUSE

Home of the...
 • Award-winning...
 • Farm-to-table...
 • Sustainable...
 • Community...

Home of the...




ENJOY OUR MEMORY CAFE SERIES THIS AUTUMN

Join us from 2:30-4:30pm on these dates...

Tuesday October 10
 Tuesday November 14

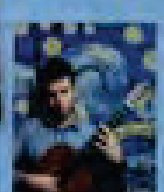

What is a Memory Cafe?
 A free winter social event for individuals, families and care partners living with memory challenges.

What happens at Memory Cafe?
 We enjoy conversation, entertainment and warm drinks in a welcoming atmosphere.

Where are in-person cafes held?
 The Labour Day Picnic Cafe
 St. Margaret's Bay (Glen Haven)

How do I register?
 Contact Rachael Emge at recreation@stmaryscentre.ca

LABOUR DAY PICNIC

NEPTUNE THURSDAY

Seniors' Lunch

at this new monthly pro...
 made served lunch menu...
 just you wish. Open to...

Register today!



Register by the...

Join your

Renew Yoga Classes

Renew Yoga is a non-profit organization that provides yoga classes to the community. We offer a variety of classes for all levels of experience. Our classes are held at the Renew Yoga studio in the heart of the city. We are currently accepting new students for our upcoming classes. Contact us today to learn more about our classes and how you can join our community.

Classes:

- Beginner Yoga: 8:00 AM - 9:30 AM
- Intermediate Yoga: 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM
- Advanced Yoga: 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
- Prenatal Yoga: 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
- Restorative Yoga: 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

For more information, visit www.renewyoga.com or call us at (555) 555-1234.

Good Energy Morning

Call Al
219 1004

Renewable power is your advantage

Call us today at 219 1004

Community Notice of Proposal

Our organization is pleased to announce the proposed installation of a new wind turbine at our facility. We are seeking input from the community to ensure the project meets everyone's needs. The proposed turbine will provide clean, renewable energy and create jobs. We are currently reviewing all feedback and will update the community on our progress.

- The proposed turbine will be installed at the end of the property and will not obstruct views or create noise.
- The turbine will be painted a light color to blend with the surrounding landscape.
- The turbine will be installed on a foundation that meets all local codes and regulations.

For more information, visit www.addwind.com or call us at (555) 555-1234.

bayride

WIND ENERGY

OUR PRIORITY IS YOUR FUTURE



Wind Energy

Wind Energy

WIND ENERGY

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!



DO YOU HAVE FEELINGS?



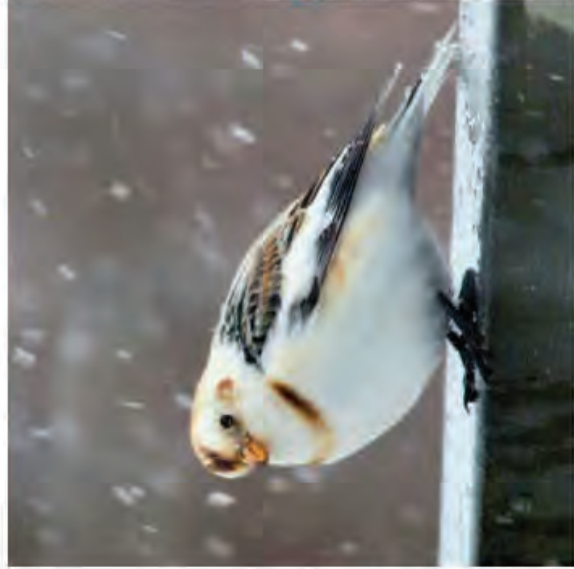
THE MASTHEAD NEWS

“The Eyes and Ears of the Community!”



**Become a citizen scientist
and participate in valuable
research**

[>> Story on Page 9](#)



[Advertisements]

ABO Wind Invites Applications for the Melvin Lake Wind Community Liaison Committee



ABO Wind Canada is developing the Melvin Lake Wind project in response to the NS Green Choice program to produce renewable energy, locally. Wind turbines would be constructed on private land south of Highway 101, and west of Pockwook Lake (East Harbts and HRM): www.melvinlakewind.com

ABO is aiming to form the Melvin Lake Wind Project Community Liaison Committee (CLC) in January 2024 to act as an advisory body to ABO Wind for this proposed Project. We're inviting interested local members of the public to join this CLC – Please consider participating!

CLC members:

- Have a regular opportunity to share input, guidance, local perspectives and concerns with respect to the Project.
- Meet quarterly, on a voluntary basis (virtual or in-person).



If you are interested in joining the CLC for the Melvin Lake Wind project, please contact ABO Wind: Communications and Community Engagement Lead (Halifax) Heidi.kirby@abo-wind.com | 902-329-9907

COLD WATER DOCKS PLUS
902-483-2390

Aluminum Roll-in Docks, Concrete

ABO Wind Invites Applications for the Melvin Lake Wind Community Liaison Committee



ABO Wind is developing the Melvin Lake Wind project in response to Nova Scotia's Green Choice procurement program for low-carbon, low-cost energy to fight climate change. Visit www.melvinlakewind.ca to learn more.

Wind turbines would be constructed on private land south of Highway 101 and west of Pockwock Lake, in the Municipality of East Hants and Halifax Regional Municipality.

ABO is aiming to form the Melvin Lake Wind Project Community Liaison Committee (CLC) in **2024** to act as an advisory body to ABO Wind for this proposed Project. We're inviting interested local representatives to join this CLC – Please consider participating in this group!

“Effective CLCs maintain good public relations, foster environmental stewardship, and act as a vehicle for transparent and ongoing communications between community, stakeholders, and the proponent on matters pertaining to current and planned development in the community”

(Province of Nova Scotia, 2010)

CLC members:



- Have a regular opportunity to share input, guidance, community views, and concerns to help inform the Project plan and related activities.
- Represent community interests through the mutual exchange of information between the developer and the community with respect to any existing or potential environmental effects of the Project plan and activities.
- Should represent a cross-section of the community, including but not limited to residents/property owners located near the Project, local businesses, municipal elected officials (or their representatives), First Nations, and community or environmental groups, in addition to ABO staff.
- Will meet quarterly, or as needed, on a voluntary basis (virtual or in-person).

If you are interested in joining the CLC for the Melvin Lake Wind project, please contact ABO's Communications and Community Engagement Lead in Halifax: Heidi.kirby@abo-wind.com / **902-329-9907**.

Please tell us a little bit about yourself and outline your primary reason(s) to want to join the CLC. The ABO Wind team looks forward to hearing from you!

www.melvinlakewind.ca

**ABO
WIND**

Community Information Sessions

ABO Wind Canada is hosting two drop-in community information sessions to share updates on our proposed Melvin Lake Wind Project.

Monday, April 15, 2024

6pm - 8:30pm
Safety Minded ATV
Association Clubhouse
15 Station Rd, Head Of
St Margarets Bay (just
off Hwy #3)

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

6pm - 8:30pm
Uniacke and District Fire Hall
654 Hwy #1,
Mount Uniacke, NS



More information and contact:
www.melvinlakewind.ca

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6pm - 8:30pm

Safety Minded ATV Association Clubhouse
15 Station Rd, Head Of St Margarets Bay
(just off Hwy #3)

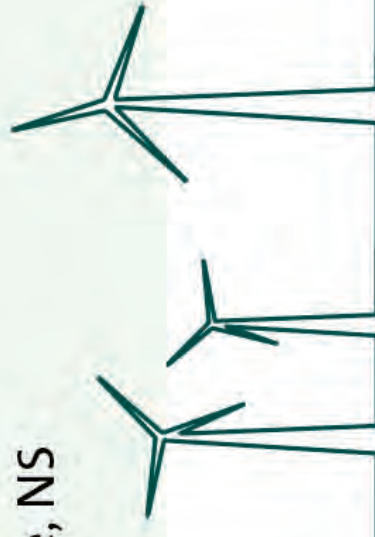
Tuesday, April 16, 2024

6pm - 8:30pm

Uniacke and District Fire Hall
654 Hwy #1,
Mount Uniacke, NS

ABO Wind looks forward to hearing your feedback and discussing our wind farm project with you!

More information and contact:
www.melvinlakewind.ca



**ABO
WIND**

Seedy Saturday helps grow great gardeners

Penny Irving

Thanks to an army of volunteers and many generous sponsors, Seedy Saturday at St. Luke's United Church in Upper Tantallon went off without a hitch on March 23.

Sixteen vendors, with the help of volunteers, were set up at their booths, ready for customers in under an hour. Volunteer parking attendants kept the steady parade of cars moving safely in and out of the parking lot.

Local vendors to help them do it. The event was offered by the St. Margaret's Bay Gardening Club, which also offered a spring membership special. Many attendees took advantage of the opportunity, bringing the club's membership up to 143.

Positive comments at the event and feedback on the club's Facebook page let us know that, even if some people didn't leave with seeds for food, everyone

guest speakers began the first of three presentation sessions, which started at 10:30am and continued through the day to 3:30pm. Vendors and food and refreshment providers were kept busy on the lower level.

Over 400 attendees took advantage of the opportunity to learn about growing and gardening in these changing and challenging times, and to purchase seeds and supplies from

Community Information Sessions

ABO Wind Canada is hosting two drop-in community information sessions to share updates on our proposed Melvin Lake Wind Project, to be located south of Hwy 101 and west of Pockwoc Lake.

Monday, April 15, 2024

6pm - 8:30pm
Safety Minded ATV Association Clubhouse
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Tuesday, April 16, 2024

6pm - 8:30pm
Uniacke and District Fire Hall
654 Hwy #1,
Mount Uniacke, NS



ABO Wind looks forward to hearing your feedback and discussing our wind farm project with you!

More information and contact:
www.melvinlakewind.ca

**ABO
WIND**



Some of the members of the Seedy Saturday planning committee with HRM District 13 Councillor Pam Lovelace, one of the event sponsors. From left: Ann Nielsen, Paula Fredericks, Geraldine Thibeau, Pam Lovelace, Shelagh Legere, and Rosie MacLean.

**MORE INFORMATION AND CONTACT AT
WWW.MELVINLAKEWIND.CA**

February 2024 Update

Now, up to 20 wind turbines would be placed on private land, just south of Highway 101 and west of Pockwock Lake, in East Hants and Halifax Regional Municipality, where we have permission of the landowner. This renewable energy project would produce an estimated 115.5 megawatts of green power - enough to power more than 25,000 homes annually! The Green Choice program has a new requirement to build on private land only, so we are no longer utilizing Crown lands. With new private land leases in the area, we have been able to add several additional turbines to produce more clean renewable energy for our province. We are hopeful this new layout is accepted positively by the community, and we look forward to hearing your feedback as we prepare to submit our Project into this procurement round in June 2024.

Additional environmental studies are ongoing to help inform ABO Wind's Environmental Assessment Registration, a required component to proceed with Project construction.

For more information visit:

<https://www.abo-wind.com/ca/co...>

FROM PGAE 1 WATER

There are also proposed increases for West Hants customers, ranging from 10.9 per cent to 18.3 per cent depending on metre size.

Under the new consolidated water utility, rates would either increase again or decrease in the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 fiscal years depending on the customer's metre size.

TOO MUCH AT ONCE

Concerned Windsor resident Hillary Eyre Cotten-den recently posted about the proposed rate hikes on the Facebook group Hants County and Beyond. She plans to attend the May 23 hearing and urged residents to take the matter seriously, as the increases would be significant.

She said her first reaction to the news was disbelief. To see such high increases being proposed at a time when the price of everything else has inflated so dramatically is "shocking."

"I then felt anger as we're all already feeling the crunch with property assessments going out recently and being unbelievably high for some," Cotten-den said.

She said the proposed increases are too much to ask for all at once and it seems like "outright greed" to her. When she considers increasing power rates, for example, it seems that the municipality is riding the coattails of other entities with monopolies over people's consumption, "assuming everyone will blindly follow along."

"I love this town so much and would hate to see current long-time residents have to leave because of this," Cotten-den said. Further amendments



West Hants Regional Municipality Mayor Abraham Zebian says it's important for municipal utilities to meet the needs of customers while also breaking even financially.

FILE PHOTOS • CONTRIBUTED

are being proposed to the municipality's public fire protection charge. The current annual fire protection charges by each of the existing water utilities of Windsor and West Hants to the municipality – and the public fire protection received by other parties by the municipality – have an estimated combined total of \$1,070,092.

This is proposed to increase to \$1,434,006, a 34 per cent increase, in 2024-2025; to \$1,729,659, a 21 per cent increase, in 2025-2026; and to \$1,760,699, a 2 per cent increase, in 2026-2027.

MOTION TO REVISIT RATES

Coun. Jim Ivey has expressed several concerns over the UARB application at recent council sessions.

He said West Hants consolidated three water utilities prior to the municipal amalgamation of Windsor and West Hants. Ivey told his colleagues they've seen what impact "rate shock" can have in affected areas. "A 43 per cent increase in

AT A GLANCE

About the hearing

Members of the public who wish to speak at the May 23 hearing are asked to notify the board by May 1. People may also make written comments by sending a letter to the Clerk of the Board at P.O. Box 1692, Unit "M", Halifax, NS, B3J 3S3; by email at board@novascotia.ca, or by fax at 902-424-3919 by May 1. People had until March 4 to request formal standing as an intervener, subject to UARB approval. This would allow them to present evidence or cross-examine witnesses. For those granted standing as an intervener, a copy of written evidence must be received by the board by April 10. A copy of the application and associated documents can be viewed on the board's website at <https://nswarb.novascotia.ca>. Click on "Matters & Evidence", and in the "Go To Files and Documents" field, enter Matter No. M11538.

a single year, the first year, for any region, on the most common used size of a connection that we have, is not the right thing," Ivey said.

He said council went through several meetings where the water rate study was discussed. Perhaps council had been "more caught up on the consolidation piece than the rates at some points in time."

Ivey said water rate reviews are something council doesn't deal with on a regular basis, and that's why he thinks it's important to get it right. The rates that are set could last for a significant length of time.

Based on his research, Ivey questions the accuracy of the proposed rates. At the March 26 meeting, Ivey said there was still time before



West Hants Regional Municipality Coun. Jim Ivey says utility customers could be living with proposed water rate increases for some time to come, so it's important to get it right.

the UARB hearing for the municipality to review its numbers to see if there is something they must fix or correct to try to balance out proposed increases.

"If we're doing a consolidation on the water utilities, we should be going to a common rate out of the gate, and that has impacts too," Ivey said.

He made a motion to have council revisit the water utility rates with the consultants who prepared the rate study to see if there is anything else that could be done to "smooth-out" the proposed increases. The motion was defeated.

RATES MUST COVER COSTS

Mayor Abraham Zebian said they have a duty to ensure that utilities are well funded and sustainable, and that was the reason for the rate study received from consultants in January.

In a March 26 interview, he said the rate study made it clear that a consolidated

water utility would be more financially viable going forward. It's important that the utility meets the needs of customers it serves while also breaking even.

"It's not a money maker by any means but whatever it costs to operate the utility and pay for capital going forward is what has to be reflected within the rates of the utility to be billed to the users of that utility," Zebian said.


He said there are regulatory requirements such as adequate water flows for firefighting purposes, for example, that water utilities must meet. Windsor is experiencing significant growth, and with that comes the need for new water infrastructure and capital improvements. All these considerations must be captured within water rates.

Zebian said costs have ballooned since the pandemic, and the proposed rates reflect the reality of what it costs to deliver municipal water. He said it would "blow anybody's mind" to see how the cost of power and chemicals for the water utilities has increased.

He said the UARB application is what the municipality is putting forward based on the advice of consultants. Anyone with concerns can voice them to the UARB in person or in writing at the upcoming public hearing.

He said that when the three water utilities of the former Municipality of West Hants were consolidated in 2018, the UARB ordered that proposed rate increases be phased-in over a longer period to reduce the immediate financial impact on customers.

The UARB will consider these types of financial impacts when reviewing the current application to consolidate utilities and increase rates.



Public Hearing
Tuesday, April 23, 2024, 6:00pm
 West Hants Municipal Building
 76 Morison Drive, Windsor, NS

A Public Hearing will be held to receive public input on amending the Windsor Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law to consider residential uses behind commercial uses on the ground floor of existing buildings in the Pesaquid Comprehensive Development District (P-CDD) zone by development agreement.

You are welcome to attend the meeting in person; if you would like to attend the meeting virtually, please contact Deanna Snair (dsnair@westhants.ca) by noon on April 19. The meeting can also be viewed live on the Municipal Facebook page at www.facebook.com/RMWWindsorWestHants.

Comments & questions should be directed by noon on April 19 to Alex Dunphy at adunphy@westhants.ca or 902-798-8391 ext. 118.

Deanna Snair
 Municipal Clerk



Community Information Sessions

ABO Wind Canada is hosting two drop-in community information sessions to share updates on our proposed Melvin Lake Wind Project, to be located south of Hwy 101 and west of Pockwock Lake.

<p>Monday, April 15, 2024</p> <p>6pm - 8:30pm Safety Minded ATV Association Clubhouse 15 Station Rd, Head Of St Margarets Bay</p>	<p>Tuesday, April 16, 2024</p> <p>6pm - 8:30pm Uniacke and District Fire Hall 654 Hwy #1, Mount Uniacke, NS</p>
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ABO Wind looks forward to hearing your feedback and discussing our wind farm project with you!

More information and contact:
www.melvinlakewind.ca

ITQ 2024 - 04

Lawn Maintenance (Grass Cutting) Services

The Annapolis Valley Regional Centre for Education (AVRCE) is seeking bids from qualified contractors for the supply of materials, labour, equipment, and services required to provide lawn maintenance (grass cutting) services for Schools and Worksite locations within the Annapolis Valley Regional Centre for Education (AVRCE).

Copies of the ITQ package are available at www.avrce.ca – Select Tender Tab. Login/Create your guest vendor account, or by emailing tenders@avrce.ca to request a copy.

Closing date for bid submission is April 19, 2024, 2 PM local time.

For information please contact:

Don Allen, Buyer
 Procurement Division
 121 Orchard Street, 3rd Floor
 Berwick, NS B0P 1E0
tenders@avrce.ca
 Phone: 902-538-4697



Notice to Customers of Kings Mutual Insurance, a division of Heartland Farm Mutual Insurance

For customers who currently insure through our Berwick office, please take note the office will be closed as we are moving to our newly renovated office at 8994 Commercial St in New Minas. The Berwick office will close Tuesday March 19th and the New Minas office will be open officially on Monday March 25th. Our team will be working remotely between the closing of the Berwick and reopening of the New Minas office.

Office hours remain 8:00 – 4:00 Monday – Friday.
 Phone number and email have not changed.

You can reach us at:
 Email - newminas@kingsmutual.ns.ca
 Phone – 902 681-0680 ext. 2



Melvin Lake Wind Project

2024 News

Thank you to all who came out to attend the July 2023 Melvin Lake Wind information session, hosted by the ABO Wind Canada team in Lewis Lake. We value your feedback and local knowledge, and remain committed to transparent, meaningful, and ongoing community and stakeholder engagement.

ABO Wind will be hosting two additional information sessions in areas on both sides of the Project location to discuss important 2024 updates for the Melvin Lake Wind Project with you:

Session 1:

Monday, April 15, 2024

6pm - 8:30pm

Safety Minded ATV Association Clubhouse

15 Station Rd, Head Of St Margarets Bay (just off Hwy #3)

Session 2:

Tuesday, April 16, 2024

6pm - 8:30pm

Uniacke and District Fire Hall

654 Hwy #1, Mount Uniacke, NS B0N 1Z0

We are still inviting interested individuals to join the Melvin Lake Wind Community Liaison Committee (CLC). CLC Members will meet periodically and will have a regular opportunity to share input, guidance, community views, and concerns to help inform the Project plan and related activities.

Do you have general Project questions, or interest in joining the CLC? Please reach out to us!

www.melvinlakewind.ca

Or, contact:

Heidi Kirby,

Communications and Engagement Lead (Atlantic)

ABO Wind Canada

Heidi.kirby@abo-wind.com

**ABO
WIND**

Project Updates

ABO Wind Canada is developing the Melvin Lake Wind project in response to Nova Scotia's Green Choice procurement program for clean, low-cost energy to fight climate change. The Green Choice Program (www.novascotiagcp.com) was developed to allow Nova Scotia's large-scale energy customers to purchase up to 100% of their electricity use from local renewable energy sources. The Green Choice Program is administered by an independent advisor, Coho.

NEW Melvin Lake Wind Layout: 20 turbines, producing 115.5 megawatts of clean energy

Now, up to 20 wind turbines would be placed on private land, just south of Highway 101 and west of Pockwock Lake, in East Hants and Halifax Regional Municipality, where we have permission of the landowner. This renewable energy project would produce an estimated 115.5 megawatts of green power –enough to power more than 25,000 homes annually!



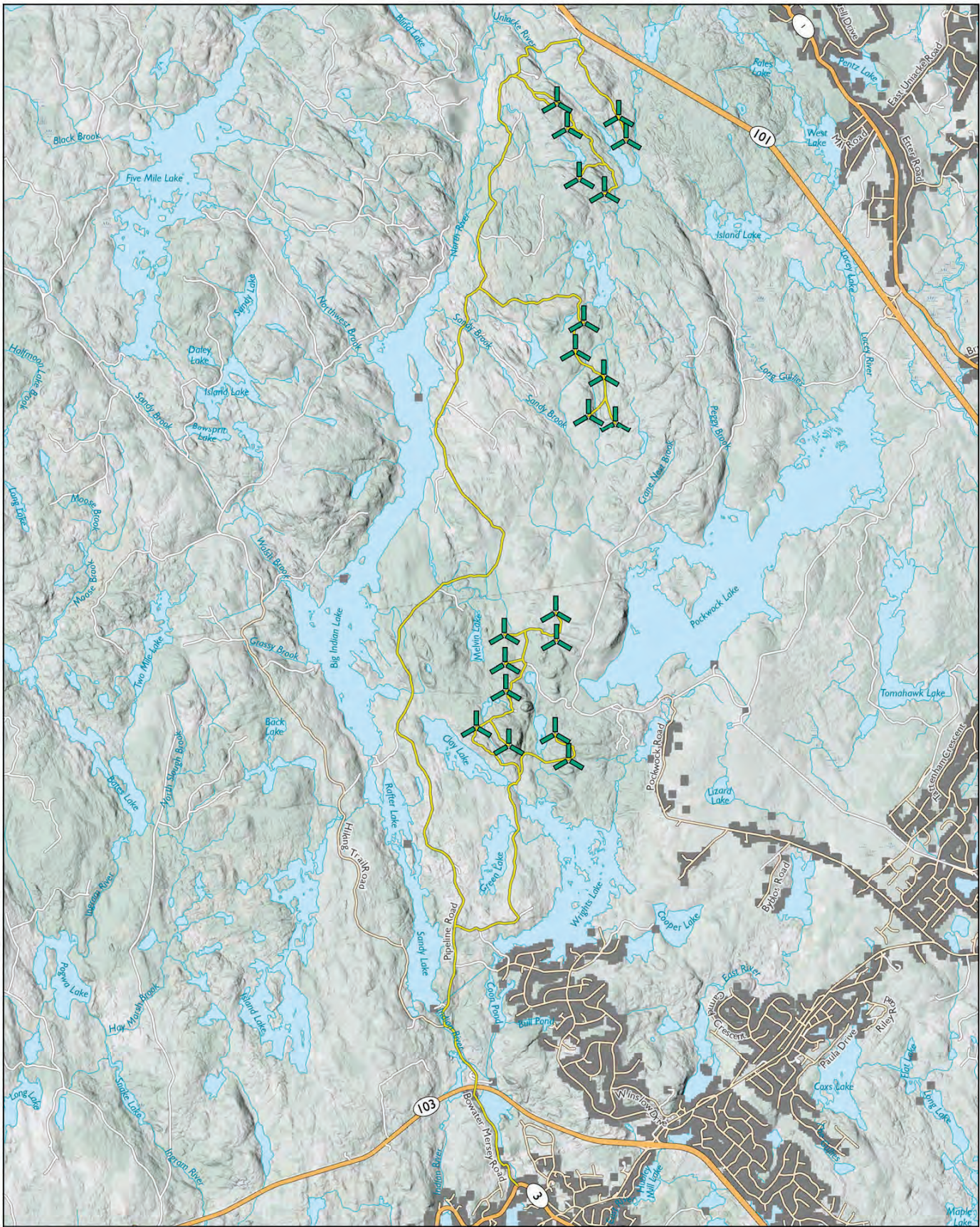
Layout Update

The Green Choice program has a new requirement to build on private land only, so we are no longer utilizing Crown lands as previously planned. With new private land leases in the area, we have been able to add several additional turbines to produce more clean, renewable energy for our province. The Melvin Lake Project previously included 15 turbines.




We are hopeful this new layout is accepted positively by the community, and we look forward to hearing your feedback as we prepare to submit our Project into this procurement round in June 2024.

Construction and environment

- The new layout is expected to use approximately 70% existing roads, with a percentage of these requiring upgrades to ensure safe access and sufficient widening for equipment association with wind turbine installation.
- Additional environmental studies are ongoing to help inform ABO Wind's Environmental Assessment Registration, a required component to proceed with Project construction.



Melvin Lake Wind Farm - Revised Layout

-  Potential Turbine Site
-  Building
-  Proposed Access Route & Collector Line



Scale: 1:70,000
 Projection: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 20N
 Publish Date: 2024-03-25

Data Credits: Province of New Brunswick, Province of Nova Scotia, Esri Canada, Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, NRCan, Parks Canada, Airbus, USGS, NGA, NASA, CGIAR, NCEAS, NLS, OS, NMA, Geodatasystrelen, GSA, GSI and the GIS User Community

Current Project timeline:

Ongoing	Consultation and engagement with local community groups, businesses, First Nations, government, and other relevant organizations in the region. Consultation will continue throughout the life of the Project.
December 1, 2023	Green Choice RFP was released.
Winter/Spring 2024	Information sessions and ongoing local engagement.
June 14, 2024	The Project will be submitted for the Green Choice Program.
September 2024	Anticipated Green Choice project award.
2024-2025	Further field studies and Environmental Assessment (EA) submission.
2025-2026	Construction anticipated to begin with tree and road clearing.
2027-2028	Commissioning – The Project is producing clean energy.

Schedule is preliminary and is subject to change

Community Benefits



Health Benefits

The Project will offset emissions that would otherwise be emitted through the burning of fossil fuels. It will generate electricity without emitting greenhouse gases or air pollutants or any use of freshwater.



Municipal Tax Payments

An estimated \$20-25M from ABO Wind to the municipalities for local services and infrastructure over the lifetime of the project.



Local Contracts and Jobs, and Spinoff Revenue

During development and construction, tens of millions of dollars in materials and services, estimated 75-125 local jobs during construction. During operation, several turbine technicians and other required long-term maintenance work.



Community Benefits Fund for Local Initiatives

Funds will go to communities in the vicinity of the Project, for community-level initiatives and regional investment.

About ABO Wind Canada

ABO Wind Canada Ltd. has been a subsidiary of ABO Wind since 2017, with offices now located in Halifax, St. John's, and Calgary. Founded in 1996, ABO Wind is a Germany-based company with more than 1,200 employees in 16 countries who work with enthusiasm on the planning, financing, construction, operational management, and maintenance of plants for a sustainable energy supply.

Welcome!

Thank you for coming to our information session and for welcoming us to your community.



ABO Wind is committed to ongoing engagement, transparent dialogue, listening to feedback and working together with you. Our team members are here to listen to you and provide information. We invite you to:

- Visit our informational posters throughout the room that outline various elements of this proposed wind project.
- Provide feedback and ask any questions you may have to the ABO Wind team as you visit the informational posters.
- Fill out a comment card! Our team welcomes comments or questions and will follow up directly with more information as requested.
- Join our Project Community Liaison Committee (CLC).

Questions or feedback following this session, or wish to join the CLC? Please contact:
Heidi Kirby, Communications and Engagement Lead (Atlantic)
heidi.kirby@abo-wind.ca | 902-329-9907

Did you know?

In addition to sharing your feedback with ABO, The Environmental Assessment Registration Document we must submit and have approved before constructing the Project will also have a 30 day comment period for residents to submit support for the Project or outline any concerns.



Project Information
www.abo-wind.ca



Our team



A local team working for a more renewable Atlantic Canada, backed by global expertise

- A company since 1996, ABO Wind now has 1200 employees worldwide. Internationally active in 16 countries in Europe, North and South America, Africa.
- ABO Wind Canada Ltd. is a subsidiary of ABO Wind AG and was founded in 2017. We developed Canada's largest wind farm to-date, Buffalo Plains (AB). 30+ staff in Canada, half based in our Atlantic Canada hub in Halifax to embrace the growing renewable energy section in this region.
- ABO Wind is focused on wind, hydrogen, solar and battery storage projects throughout the region. Our local team works closely with ABO Wind team members in Canada and globally.
- Our team is committed to building relationships and working together with First Nations, local communities and all stakeholder groups.



ABO Wind becomes ABO Energy in 2024

We are changing our name. But why?



Our new name better captures the entirety of the clean energy projects we develop, demonstrating the value of working with (and for) ABO. We started with wind, then added solar and battery, and are now also developing hydrogen projects. The name ABO Wind no longer fully describes our business.

Project Information

www.abo-wind.ca



What we're working for

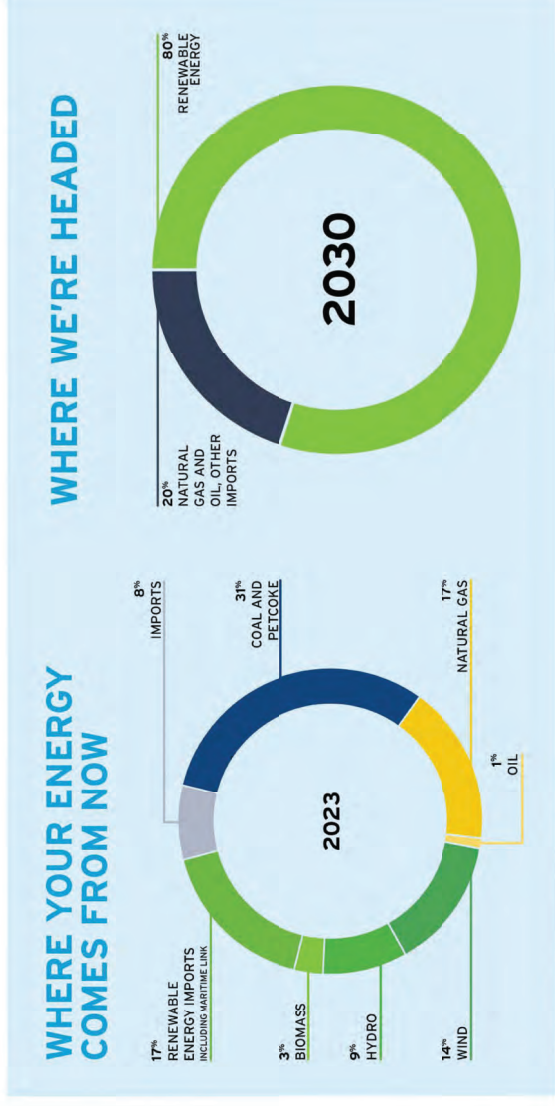
Helping create a cleaner, more sustainable Nova Scotia



ABO Wind is currently developing two wind farm projects in Nova Scotia to submit into the Green Choice Program this year: Melvin Lake Wind and Rhodena Wind.

Our wind Projects will be part of a large and collective effort to meet provincial and federal goals to reach 80% renewable energy and move off coal by 2030.

ABO Wind Canada will submit a proposal in the Green Choice program issued by the Province of Nova Scotia. The submission deadline is now June 14, 2024.



What is the Green Choice Program?

- An emerging green power offering developed between the Province, suppliers, the utility, and large energy buyers.
- The Green Choice Program will allow large energy customers in the province to purchase up to 100% of their electricity use from local renewable energy sources.
- This could include governments, educational institutions, factories and more.
- More access to renewable energy will help to create jobs and ensure that Nova Scotia continues to lead in the fight against climate change.

Image Credit: Nova Scotia Power (2024)



Project Information

www.abo-wind.ca

Melvin Lake Wind



How many wind turbines?

Why has the number of turbines changed since 2023?

Up to 20 in total

The Green Choice program has a new requirement to build on private land only, so we are no longer utilizing Crown lands for our turbines. We made modifications based on land access which also aligns with feedback we have heard.

With new private land leases in the area, we have been able to add several additional turbines to produce more clean, renewable energy for our province. We are hopeful this new layout is accepted positively by the community and welcome your feedback on this change.

Where will it be located?

Just south of Highway 101 and west of Pockwock Lake, in East Hants and Halifax Regional Municipality

How far from the nearest home?

The smallest distance from a turbine to a residence is 1543m

How much clean power?

115.5 megawatts of green energy – enough to power more than 25,000 homes annually!

How high are the turbines?

125m to hub, 206.5 including the tip of the blade

Are existing access roads being used?

The new layout is expected to use about 70% already existing roads, with a percentage of these requiring upgrades to ensure safe access and sufficient widening for equipment association with wind turbine installation.

Why was this location selected?

Low grid connection cost and proximity to Halifax, favourable wind speeds, an existing network of forestry roads, land topography, grid capacity and the ability to adhere to and exceed company, municipal and provincial setback guidelines.



www.melvinlakewind.ca

New vs. Existing Access Roads

